

TURNER CARROLL

Clarence Heyward

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Using painting as my primary tool of communication, I make work examining my identity as a Black American man, husband and father; creating compositions documenting my life experiences and examining how the media and historical documentation are used to inform and misinform the perception of Black Americans and our collective culture. Much of my work is influenced by my memories which serve as a database filled with television shows, movies, music, and pop-culture which become metaphors and or references used in my compositions.

In my work the media's depiction of Black Culture is referenced by the use of green skin in my portraits. This is a direct reference to Chroma Key otherwise known as "green screen." The process used for editing and shaping the perception of realities in film and television programming.

Positioning my family as the principal subjects in my work allows me to record our existence, absent of preconceived notions of Black culture and the superabundant depictions of trauma, and instead document the authenticity and realities of our lives from a first person perspective. Thus, providing an alternative entry into the conversation of existing while Black in America.